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| <p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>This study focused on political approach of civic activism in the field of disability. The political approach refers to rights-oriented approach that challenges existing unequal power structure so that ultimate goal of equality is fulfilled. This approach was elaborated through a project investigation of a Finnish disabled people's organisation in Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In order to understand this organisational reality, its background context, namely daily experiences of disabled people in Central Asia, was also scrutinised. The aims were to clarify vulnerability creation mechanism, complex reality of the Finnish intervention in Central Asia and possibility of the political approach in Central Asia. Final goal was that this thesis, including its process, both academically and practically contributes to the disability movement and their equality.</p> <p>Basic qualitative methodology with deep, personal interviews and observation was applied. Perspective of disabled people was central. Data analysis applied similar method as qualitative content analysis and was made with disability theories: social and political models of disability. The main findings are three-folded. Firstly, the study clarified the main factors of the vulnerability creation mechanism that makes and reinforces the deviant role of disabled people in Central Asia. This clarification proves that disability is a human construction not only in Western countries but also in ex-socialist countries. That is, West-oriented social model of disability makes sense in these countries.</p> <p>Secondly, heterogeneity of disabled people became clear despite of the existence of the social mechanism. Having acknowledged the multiplicity, fighting against disability needs multiple approaches firstly to deal with the multiple layers of the mechanism, secondly to deal also with other discrimination against sex, age, ethnic origin etc. and thirdly to meet needs of individuals.</p> <p>Thirdly, implications toward equality were elaborated. This study found out that political approach can play a role in localised manner in Central Asia. It is important for all actors in the society to realise that even a small change can make a difference. Especially active role of disabled people to make a difference with the political approach was highlighted after they are aware of their rights and ownership.</p> | | |
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